

## Amendments to the Claims:

### Claims 1- 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A process for the continuous production of powdered, crosslinked polymer compositions absorbing aqueous or serous fluids, as well as blood, comprising:

- a) 55 - 99.9 wt.-% of at least one polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, polymerizable monomer which contains acid groups neutralized to at least 25 mole-%;
- b) 0 - 40 wt.-% of polymerized, unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with a);
- c) 0.01 - 5.0 wt.-% of one or more crosslinking agents;
- d) 0 - 30 wt.-% of a water soluble polymer, the weight amounts a) through d) being based on anhydrous polymer composition, and the sum of these components always being 100 wt. %, wherein the powdered crosslinked polymer composition is made by continuous polymerization process wherein a parameter of the continuous polymerization process is varied by increasing and decreasing the parameter in a recurring pattern, during the polymerization process.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 13, characterized in that said recurring pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 13, wherein the oscillation is selected from the group consisting of harmonic or anharmonic.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 13 characterized in that the polymerization is effected on a moving support.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 13 characterized in that the polymer composition is powdered subsequent to dying.

19. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 18, characterized in that the powdered polymer product is mixed with 0.05 - 3 wt.-% of a compound capable of reacting with at least two carboxyl groups and heated to 150-250°C.

Claims 20 - 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A process for the continuous production of powdered, crosslinked polymer compositions for absorbing aqueous or serous fluids, as well as blood, comprising:

- a) 55 - 99.9 wt.-% of at least one polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, polymerizable monomer which contains acid groups neutralized to at least 25 mole-%;
- b) 0 - 40 wt.-% of polymerized, unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with a);
- c) 0.01 - 5.0 wt.-% of a crosslinking agent;

d) 0 - 30 wt.-% of a water-soluble polymer, the weight amounts a) through d) being based on anhydrous polymer composition, and the sum of these components always being 100 wt. %, the monomer solution being polymerized to form a gel, said gel being dried and crushed, characterized in that at least one parameter of the continuous polymerization process is varied by increasing and decreasing the parameter in a recurring pattern, during the polymerization process, the parameter selected from the group consisting of

the composition of the polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, polymerizable monomer solution by varying the amount of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer,

the concentration of the crosslinking agent,

the pH value of the monomer solution; and

the graft basis by increasing and reducing the amount of graft basis.